

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 COTONO 00875 191310Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
EB-08 TRSE-00 /038 W
-----125079 191344Z /45
P R 191300Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO /AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY 3422
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 834
AMCONSUL KADUNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COTONOU 875

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EINV, DM
SUBJ: JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES COMPENSATION NEGOTIATIONS

REF: LAGOS 7487

1. WE WILL DO BEST TO ACCOMMODATE WITNESSES, BUT IN TERMS OF
TRANSACTIONING BUSINESS IN BENIN THEIR TIMETABLE DOES NOT STRIKE
US AS BEING REALISTIC. ALL OFFICIAL MATTERS MUST BE TRANSMITTED
BY NOTE VERBALE TO GOVERNMENT OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN
(GPRB) FORMIN THEN TO OTHER MINISTRIES AFFECTED, IN THIS CASE,
MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR, PROBABLY TO THE PRESIDENCY, AND BACK
TO THE FORMIN BEFORE DECISIONS CAN BE TAKEN. EVEN ON MOST URGENT
MATTERS THIS CAN BE A MATTER OF WEEKS RATHER THAN DAYS. AS NOTED
IN COTONOU 869, FORMIN IS TREATING THIS AS AN URGENT MATTER AND
WE HOPE TO HAVE A POSITIVE RESPONSE BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS
JUNE 21.
WE CANNOT COUNT ON THIS HOWEVER.

2. SINCE IT HAS TAKEN OVER TWO YEARS TO REACH NEGOTIATION
POINT BELIEVE THAT IF BENIN GOVERNMENT SETS APPOINTMENT FOR
NEGOTIATING TEAM IN JULY OR AUGUST, WITNESSES SHOULD BE
PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE NEGOTIATIONS AT THAT TIME, EVEN IF IT
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MEANS CHANGING LEAVE PLANS. HOME LEAVE, ANNUAL LEAVE OR
SIMILAR CONSIDERATIONS WOULD SEEM LESS IMPORTANT THAN GETTING
COMPENSATION. WITNESSES UNAVAILABILITY UNTIL EARLY SEPTEMBER
COULD WELL BE INTERPRETED BY GPRB AS INDICATION OF LACK
OF INTEREST ON WITNESSES' PART AND MIGHT PROMPT BENINESE
THEMSELVES TO LOSE MOMENTUM IN SEARCH FOR REASONABLE
SETTLEMENT. THOMPSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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